

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

THOMAS A. DEBUSK ET AL.

Attorney Docket No. **0090084**

Serial No. To Be Assigned

Filing Date: Filed of Even Date Herewith

For: **Contaminant Removal System and
Method for a Body of Water**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL PURSUANT TO MPEP 708.02

Applicant in the above-identified patent application respectfully petitions the Commissioner for Patents to grant accelerated status for the prosecution of this application.

This Petition is supported by Applicant's Specification in the above-referenced patent application, and, pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.102(c) and MPEP 708.02 V, serves as the basis for requesting accelerated prosecution on the basis of the invention's being directed to a system and method for materially enhancing the quality of the environment. No fee is required for the filing of this petition.

The invention is directed to a method and system for removing pollutants, such as heavy metals, phosphorus, and pathogenic organisms, from water. The method for treating water comprises the step of adding a chemical coagulant to water containing a pollutant, the water being within an enclosure. The water and the coagulant are mixed, and coagulation and flocculation are permitted to occur. The mixing is stopped, and a floc formed by the coagulation and flocculation is permitted to settle to a bottom of the enclosure. The floc contains the pollutant, so that treated water remaining above the floc is thereby free from at least some of the pollutant.

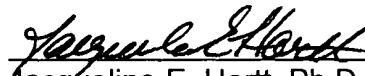
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At least some of the treated water is removed from the enclosure, and new water containing a pollutant is added to the enclosure. The new water and the floc are then mixed to resuspend components of the floc.

The present technique provides for more efficient use of chemical coagulants, capitalizing on the fact that coagulation and floc formation are dependent on the chemical characteristics of water (e.g., alkalinity, pH) that are not necessarily related to the concentration of contaminants (e.g., phosphorus, heavy metals) desired to be removed from the water.

If the further prosecution of this Petition can be facilitated through a telephone conference between the Commissioner's Office and the undersigned, the Office is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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